Inspection of RPG life Sciences

2366. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that an inspection under Section 209A of the Companies Act was ordered in respect of R.P.G. Life Sciences for Squandering investor's money;

(b) if so, the details and findings of the probe; and

(c) the action taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes sir, inspection in respect of M/s R.P.G. Life Sciences was ordered under Seciton 209A of the Companies Act, 1956. On the basis of inspection report order for filing procecution for contravention of the provisions of Section 372 of the Act has been issued. Violation of the provisions of Section 217(2A) and Section 211 read with Schedule VI of the Act have also been pointed out in the inspection report for which the Registrar of Companies has been advised to issue Show Cause Notices.

Pending cases in various Courts

2367. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge pendency of cases in the vairous courts;

(b) whether the Chief Justice of India held the executive mainly responsible for this pendency; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to expendite disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. There is huge pendency of cases in the various courts except in the Supreme Court.

There were 22,047 cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 28.2.2001, 35.16 lakh cases pending in the High Courts as on 30.9.2000 and 2.03 crore cases pending in the Subordinate Courts of the County as in June, 2000.

(b) The Chief Justice of India has never held the executive mainly responsible for the pendency of cases in the various Courts. However, His

Lordship in the Law Day Address at the Supreme Court Bar Association Function held on 26th November, 1999 pointed out that inadequate Judge strength throughout the country is the singular biggest factor for huge backlog of cases and one billion population of this country a total number of only about 13,000 judicial officers, from the lowest level to the supreme Court, are available.

In the inaugural Address delivered by Hon'ble the Chief justice of India the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Rajasthan High Court on 29th August, 1999 His Lordship stated:—

> ".....Though it is a fact that arrears have mounted up and the judiciary cannot escape criticism but the executive is also partly responsible therefor. Besides taking their own time to fill up the vacancies, the executive has invariably failed to provide necessary infrastructure to enable the judiciary to function normally....."

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishement of Special Courts/ tribunals, Computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Amendment of procedural law is a continuous process. Two Bills namely the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 have been introduced in Parliament and are pending before Parliament for consideration. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs.502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails, on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April, 2001.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-02 to serve as a model for other courts in the country.